have been some complaints regarding quality of coal supplies which mainly relate to high ash content, ad-mixture of stones, shales and other extraneous materials. The following steps are being adopted by coal companies to ensure the supply of quality coal to the consumers:—

(i) Segregation of stones at the time of loading coal;

(ii) In Coal Handling Plants, slow moving picking belts are provided for picking up of shales and stone pieces;

(iii) Maintenance of sufficient stock at the siding so that picking can be ensured before loading;

(iv) Ensuring better supervision to maintain quality control, and developing quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives engaged at Railway sidings;

(v) Steps are also being introduced in the washeries for improving quality as per the recommendations of Altekar Committee for supply of washed coking coal of 17 plus minus 0.5 per cent ash content to steel plants.

1995. [*Transferred to the 13th May*, 1992.]

Pension to armed personnel

1996. SHRI SYED SIBTY RAZI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 472 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have since issued orders to implement the recommendations of the high power Committee to improve the pension of those armed personnel who retired before January, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) when these recommendations are likely to be implemented completely?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Government have issued orders *vide* Ministry of Defence letter No. 1(2)/92|D (Pension/Services), dated 16-3-1992 to implement the recommendations of High Level Empowered Committee for grant of one Time Increase (OTI) in pensions to Armed Forces personnal who retired before 1-1-1986. All pension Disbursing Authorities have been instructed to make payments of pension at enhanced rates on presentation of claims by eligibla Armed Forces pensioners.

2. The details of benefits granted to pre 1-1-1986 Armed Forces pensioners are indicated below:—

(i) Over 6 lakhs of the pre 1-1-1986 Armed Forces Pensioners in different ranks will receive benefit by grant of this one-time increase in pension.

(ii) Substantial increase in pensions has been granted to the pre 1-1-1973 teirees of Commissioned Officer rank, for the first time. Retirees in the ranks upto Lt. Colonel, during the period from 1-1-1973 to 31-12.1985, have also been granted banefits.

(iii) The families of such Reservists who had opted for payment of one-time lump-sum gratuity, and ceased to be pansioners, have been granted an ex-gratia family pension of Rs. 150/- p.m. as done in respect of families of the deceased Contributory Provident Fund beneficiaries.

(iv) The families of ex-Servicemen in receipt of two pensions, who are currently drawing the less advantageous Family Pension, have been given the option to choose the better of the two family Pensions.

(v) The pensions of pre 1-6-1953 Defence retirees in all ranks have been improved.

(vi) The one-time increase will take effect from 1-1-1992.

इलाहाबाद जिले में रक्षा विभाग के प्रयोजनार्थ भूमि का अधिग्रहण

1997. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश के इलाहाबाद जिले में रक्षा विभाग के प्रयोजनार्थ भूमि

का अधिग्रहण किये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या प्रस्तावित अधिग्रहण के विरुद्ध कोई ज्ञापन प्राप्त हुए हैं?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार) : (क) से (ग) उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार इलाहाबाद में 235.007 एकड़ रक्षा भूमि का उपयोग कर रही है। राज्य सरकार ने इस भूमि को उन्हें स्थायी तौर पर अन्तरित करने के लिए रक्षा मंत्रालय से अनुरोध किया था। रक्षा मंत्रालय ने इस भूमि के अन्तरण के लिए इस शर्त पर सहमति दी थी कि समान मूल्य की वैकल्पिक भूमि रक्षा उपयोग के लिए उपलब्ध करा दी जाएगी।

तदनुसार राज्य सरकार ने इस उद्देश्य के लिए इलाहाबाद जिले की करचना तहसील के 14 गांवों में भूमि निश्चित की थी। किन्तु इस भूमि के प्रस्तावित अधिग्रहण के खिलाफ अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त होने के कारण राज्य सरकार ने अधिग्रहण के लिए "अनापत्ति प्रमाण-पत्र" जारी नहीं किया है।

Reduction of strength of Indian Army

1998. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any suggestion through the media or otherwise to reduce the strength of Indian Army; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The size/strength and structure of the Army is periodically reviewed, keeping in view the external threat assessment and internal security requirements of the country.

Cases pending between army contractors and MES Department in J&K

1999. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases pending in courts of Jammu and Kashmir High Court between Army contractors and MES Department for the last more than five years;

(b) the numbar of cases involving the contratcors in misappropriation of cement and steel together with the details of losses incurred by Government in this regard;

(c) the number of cases where the contractors left their works unfinished in Srinagar and Government had to complete such works at high rates and the steps Government have taken in such cases; and

(d) the number of cases in which Government have not paid the dues to contractors during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There are 141 such cases pending in Courts of Jammu and Kashmir/J&K High Court.

(b) There are 15 cases where the contractors were held to be involved in misappropriation of cement and steel, involving a loss of Rs. 19.23 lakhs. Cases for recovery are pending in Courts/with Arbitrators, for dacrees against the contractors concerned.

(c) In 10 cases, the contractors left the works unfinished in Srinagar. In 7 of these cases, works were got completed at the risk and cost of the original contractor. In 3 cases the contractors detained stay orders from the Courts, restraining the Department from concluding the risk and cost contracts, these cases are now before Courts/Arbitrators for obtaining decrees to effect recoveries of the extra cost incurred in completing the works/for vacating the stay.

(d) There are 166 cases in which Government have not paid dues to the contractors during the last five years. These